



## DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Echo Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 79<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery  
434<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade  
6007 Rothwell Street  
Fort Sill, Oklahoma 73503-4558

June 20, 2018

Family and Friends of Echo Battery, 1-79FA BN Soldiers:

Greetings from beautiful Fort Sill, Oklahoma! I'm Captain David Marx, I am your Soldier's Commanding Officer during their journey through Basic Combat Training. My Battery First Sergeant is, First Sergeant Guy Dormeus. I am pleased to write you concerning your Soldier who has been stationed here for Basic Training. Your Soldier is doing well and should have had an opportunity to contact you by the time you read this. Soldiers will not have phone privileges for at least the first four training weeks. After that initial period, they will have phone privileges for a limited amount of time on Sundays if they are in a good training and disciplinary status.

I want you to know that the Drill Sergeants and Cadre are extremely professional and dedicated to the care, safety, and training of your Soldier. They are selected from the top 10% of all noncommissioned officers in the U.S. Army and undergo rigorous training and certification to conduct training. The next ten weeks will be challenging for your Soldier, but we will do all that we can to ensure their success and give them a solid start to their military careers.

I am extremely dedicated to keeping Family and friends updated on their progress and I invite you to "Like" us on our unit Facebook page. Here, you will be able to find pictures, videos, and general updates on your Soldiers. I invite you to place wall posts to one another but please keep in mind that the primary purpose of this site is to keep family and friends informed. You can find us on Facebook at "Echo Battery, 1-79 FA Basic Combat Training." The battery webpage can be viewed at <http://sill-www.army.mil/434/1-79/echo/>. **The Facebook page will be the primary outlet for the dissemination of information to family and friends.**

I strongly recommend each family to enroll in the Army Family Team Building (AFTB). It is an online class for you to familiarize yourself with Army information and lingo. This course will pay dividends for you and your Soldier when you meet again.

Your Soldiers are extremely busy, but we try to make time for them to contact you on the weekends. This is not always possible due to training requirements so, I encourage you to write to your Soldiers.

A little bit of encouragement from home goes a long way. Please send letters. Care packages are allowed, but do not send packages with contraband items (tobacco, controlled substances, alcohol, pornography, candy etc.).

Letters should be addressed to:

(Line 1): Your Soldier's Name

(Line 2): Platoon #, Echo Battery, 1-79FA (Ask your Soldier for their Platoon #)

(Line 3): 6007 Rothwell Rd.

(Line 4): Fort Sill, OK 73503

I highly encourage you to attend the Army Orientation Night on 29 AUG 2018 at 5:00PM, Family Day on 30 AUG 2018, at 9:00AM, and graduation scheduled for 31 AUG 2018 at 10:00AM. I will send out more detailed Family day/graduation information approximately one month before graduation. You can also find information on Ft. Sill and the Lawton, OK area through the Lawton Chamber of Commerce website. I recommend that you arrive at least by 29 AUG.

Graduation is a privilege granted to those Soldiers who are mentally and physically tough enough to complete basic training. Unfortunately, not all Soldiers find themselves able to meet our demanding standards. As we progress further into basic training, please have honest conversations with your Soldier about their progress as their performance will have an impact on whether or not they graduate.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or to alert the unit of an emergency situation regarding your Soldier or their *immediate* family. My office telephone number is (580) 442-1317 and will normally be answered 24 hours a day. If the previous phone number is not answered and there is a true emergency, my higher headquarters can be contacted at (580) 442-1300, which is also manned 24 hours a day. For Soldier specific information of a non-emergency nature, I invite you to email me at [david.j.marx.mil@mail.mil](mailto:david.j.marx.mil@mail.mil).

I look forward to meeting you and hope you are able to attend your Soldier's graduation. Thank you for supporting your Soldier!

Sincerely,

David J. Marx  
Captain, Field Artillery  
Commanding

## Instructions to Request Unescorted Installation Visitor Access to Fort Sill

To ensure you are able to obtain a Visitor Pass please visit the following website:

<https://fortsillregistration.com>

The pass approval process may take up to seven to ten business days and must be submitted not less than ten business days ahead of your arrival date.

**Alternatively, you may also go to the visitor's center and acquire a pass on your own seven days a week; however, around graduations the line can get extensive.**

Juveniles age 16 and under do not require a visitor pass unless they are unaccompanied and/or driving a vehicle. If you have a valid DOD ID card either, Retired, Active, Reserve, or National Guard you will not need to fill out a pass to gain entry, but everyone with you who does not possess this type of ID will need a pass.

At the above website, when filling out the form, in the "Reason For Visit" box write:

"E/1-79 FA Family Day/Graduation"

Please visit <http://sill-www.army.mil/vcc> if more detailed information is required.